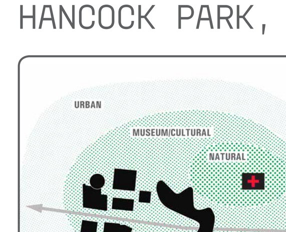
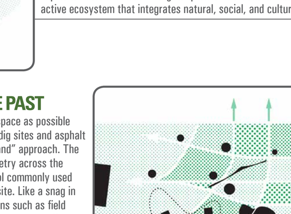
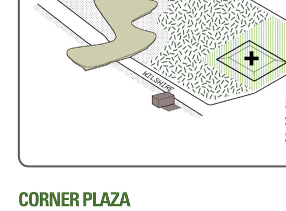
LA BREA TAR PITS
HANCOCK PARK, TAR PITS, PAGE MUSEUM



URBAN ECOSYSTEM
The context surrounding Hancock Park is undergoing rapid change with major upgrades and expansions to important institutions and infrastructure. As many of these projects are developing simultaneously but not cohesively, the masterplan provides the opportunity to rethink the park as the connective tissue extending beyond its bounds to unite disparate parts on its four sides. While this broad view is beyond the limits of the competition site, we hope to forge a dialogue with City, County and institutional stakeholders to identify important initiatives such as common pedestrian circulation and wayfinding between institutions, an east-west green canopy extended from the New Purple line station, and distinctive stone sidewalk paving and cross-walks along Wilshire to create a safer, more coherent and comfortable public experience. Rather than seeing the park as a void in the urban fabric, it can become an active ecosystem that integrates natural, social, and cultural orders.

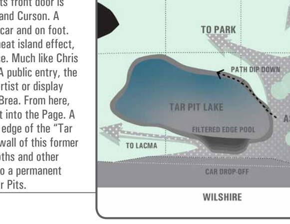
PERPETUALLY NEW YET ROOTED IN THE PAST
The masterplan's dual mission to maximize as much usable green space as possible within its urban setting and to accommodate new paleontological dig sites and asphalt seeps anywhere and anytime within its bounds requires a "both / and" approach. The proposed masterplan extends the Page Museum's rectilinear geometry across the site into a grid of pathways and landscapes, referencing a field tool commonly used by paleontologists as a locational frame of reference within a dig site. Like a snag in a mesh stocking, this grid deforms to connect idiosyncratic locations such as field stations, tar seeps and other features critical to the telling of the La Brea Tar Pits story. The pathways extend through the new LACMA expansion to the site periphery and beyond to become pedestrian crosswalks, bringing the park, museum, neighboring buildings and surrounding neighborhoods together into an interconnected whole. The Tar Lake, Observation Pit, Oil Creek, former dig sites, mature trees, and other elements of the area's rich history anchor this new framework and provide continuity.

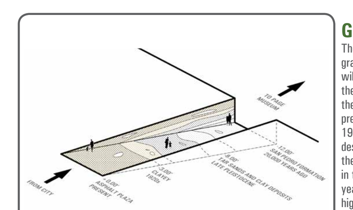




VARIABLE SPEEDS
As the Park is an active paleontological site, the masterplan will take into account immediate and unexpected occurrences like the emergence of a new asphalt seep, the start of a new dig site, a prolonged drought, and generally diminishing available water. It will also set a phased timeline that engages all stakeholders in a transparent manner. The initial phase will be geared to engagement with the City, County, surrounding institutions, taking a broad view of the site and a shared urban future. More specifically, engagement with LACMA will focus on adjacencies and overlaps with the goal of creating a cohesive campus. A second phase will begin the transformation of the park with the adaptation of existing landscapes, the introduction of new vegetation and pathways, and the implementation of infrastructural upgrades. These evolving landscapes will host temporary pavilions for exhibition, education and research while the Page Museum is under construction in the final phase of the masterplan. Looking to a less car-dependent future, the surface parking lot would be removed from the northeast corner of the park, with cars temporarily distributed to micro lots at the north and east park edges. Ultimately, on-site parking would be replaced by a district-wide shared parking.

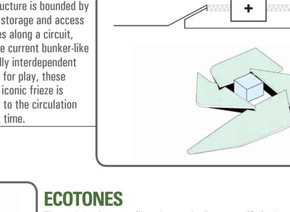
CORNER PLAZA
While the Page will be reconceived as permeable from all sides, its front door is imagined at the southeast corner of the park, edged by Wilshire and Curson. A new drop-off lane and "Asphalt Plaza" would receive visitors by car and on foot. The plaza, made of asphalt and light materials that combat the heat island effect, will feature lush shade trees with seating and congregating space. Much like Chris Burden's Urban Light installation forms an identity to the LACMA public entry, the plaza could host a commissioned art work by an environmental artist or display a field of core samples that engage directly with research at La Brea. From here, visitors can wander into the park or enter a descending forecourt into the Page. A distinct pathway to the west descends along a new ramp at the edge of the "Tar Pit Lake," revealing a stabilized section behind a glass retaining wall of this former asphalt mine since filled by storm run-off. The legendary mammoths and other fiberglass Pleistocene creatures dotting the park will be moved to a permanent exhibit at the museum dedicated to the popular history of the Tar Pits.

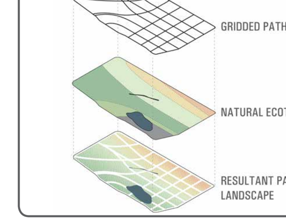




GROUND
The ground is the protagonist in the story of the La Brea Tar Pits, yet we take it for granted as we step off the sidewalk into the park. In the reenvisioned park, visitors will become aware of the rich history held underfoot as they gradually descend from the "Asphalt Plaza" to a level just beneath the current elevation of the Page to enter the museum. This fully accessible ramped excavation strips away the layers of the present-day Anthropocene to reveal clayey back-fill used to level the park in the 1920's and alluvial flows of sediment captured during the Holocene epoch. Visitors descend further through tar sands and clay deposits of the Lakewood Formation of the late Pleistocene and graze the top of the San Pedro formation dating to earlier in that epoch, reaching the new front door at 12 feet below the surface and 20,000 years back geologically. The excavation is limited to a small footprint because of the high water table infiltrated by methane gases. It will likely discover fossil deposits and a new project to be hosted at the Tar Pits.

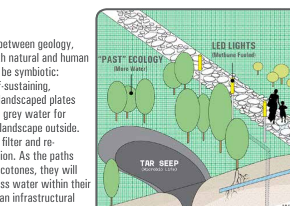
LIGHT TOUCH
The proposed expansion and modernization of the Page Museum takes a "light touch" approach in order to preserve as much of the park as possible for public green space and future paleontological digs. The required 50% expansion of the museum is accommodated within the existing footprint of the Page by using the courtyard as the site for a new archive for collections and labs. This glass structure is bounded by a spiraling ramp that invites the public to view the collections in storage and access many of the research labs while connecting a network of galleries along a circuit, reaching the Tar Bar and highest point of the new landscape. The current bunker-like symmetrical berms are reimagined as a dynamic set of structurally interdependent landscaped plates. Less fortified yet still accessible to the public for play, these discrete hills open multiple points of entry into the museum. The iconic frieze is preserved and relocated within the museum, forming a perimeter to the circulation spiral that permits visitors to see its murals up close for the first time.



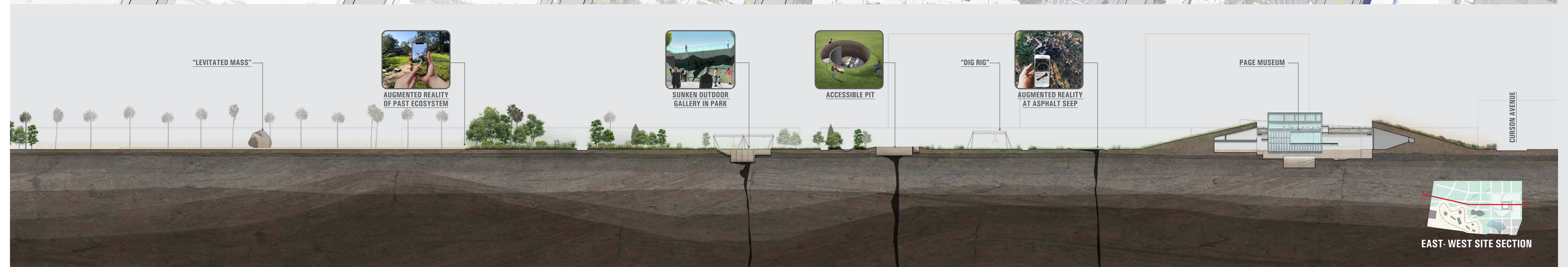


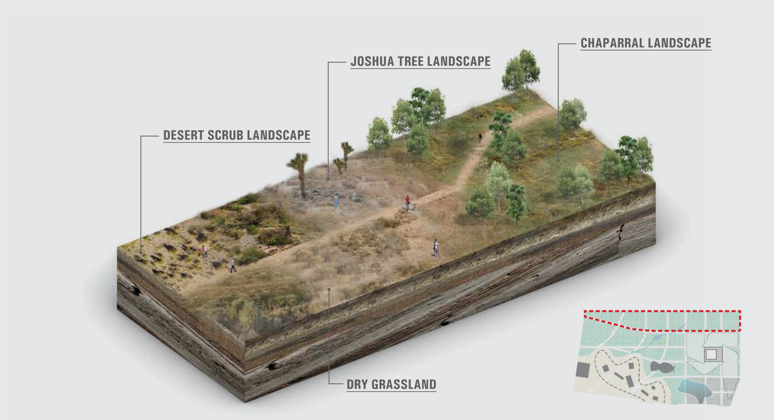
ECOTONES
The park landscape will evolve gradually to amplify its best assets, soften edges, and reduce water consumption. New pathways moving east to west from the re-imagined Page Museum now frame a more lush green heart of the park. Here, water-thirsty lawns can be colonized by drifts of self-sustaining grassy meadows and chaparral landscapes, while dense woodland areas found along LACMA can extend deeper into the park to provide a more comfortable shaded environment for park-goers -- all punctuated by the sometimes random occurrence of asphalt seeps and new dig sites. This blended environment of transitional landscapes, or ecotones, extends to the North to become a progressively more arid but bio-diverse landscape. The northeast corner of the park closest to the museum displays potential landscape outcomes of climate change. To the South, the woodland landscape splinters into pockets of green and shade within water-permeable paved plazas to produce a softened edge between city and park along Wilshire. The sweeping ecotones that define the park will loosely fit into a broader narrative of a wetter "past," a drought prone "present" and a much more arid "future," and will carry with them a biodiversity of birds, insects and small mammals.

SYMBIOSIS
The built environment of tomorrow can forge new relationships between geology, ecology and infrastructure to promote a healthy resiliency of both natural and human ecosystems. The building and landscape for the new project will be symbiotic: exchanging water, energy and waste resources to produce a self-sustaining, carbon neutral future for the Tar Pits. Water collected from the landscaped plates of the museum will be stored in cisterns below ground, providing grey water for consumption and cooling inside the building and irrigation of the landscape outside. "Infrastructural paths" crisscrossing the site will capture, store, filter and re-distribute water and methane based on need and seasonal variation. As the paths extend from the museum into the landscape, weaving between ecotones, they will collect run-off from hardscapes and more arid soils to store excess water within their gravel substructure. Near asphalt seeps, the paths will serve as an infrastructural spine to connect methane gas extraction wells and asphalt sumps and put these resources to productive use to create an off-the grid power source available for dig sites, lighting, temporary pavilions and events anywhere in the park.



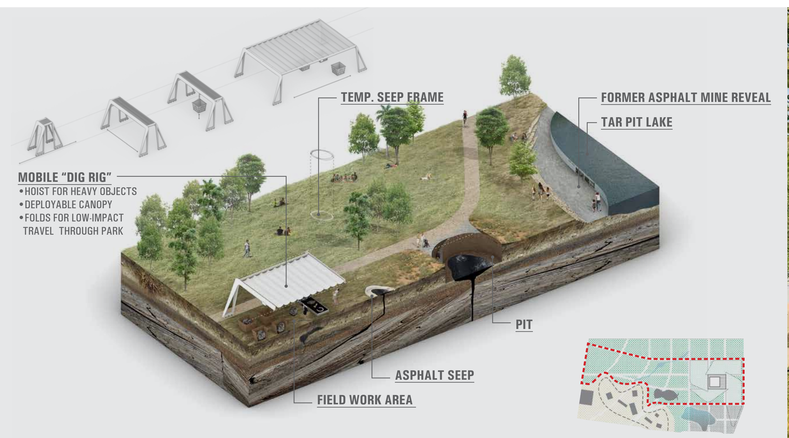






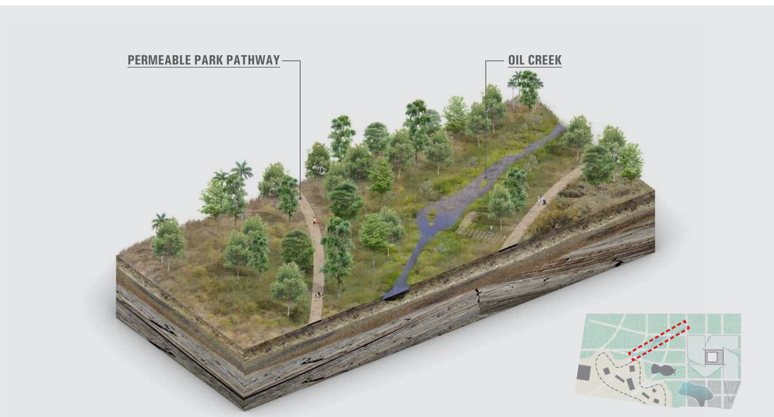
THE ARID ECOTONE transitions from the chaparral landscape at the edge of the woodland ecotone into a more arid landscape at the northeast corner of the park. Projecting forward into a future warmer and drier Los Angeles climate, the arid ecotone samples the ecological systems 250 Miles South of La Brea, the arid, coastal landscape of Baja California. This experimental set of landscapes will demonstrate potential outcomes of climate change reflected in its soil, flora and fauna.

PALO VERDE



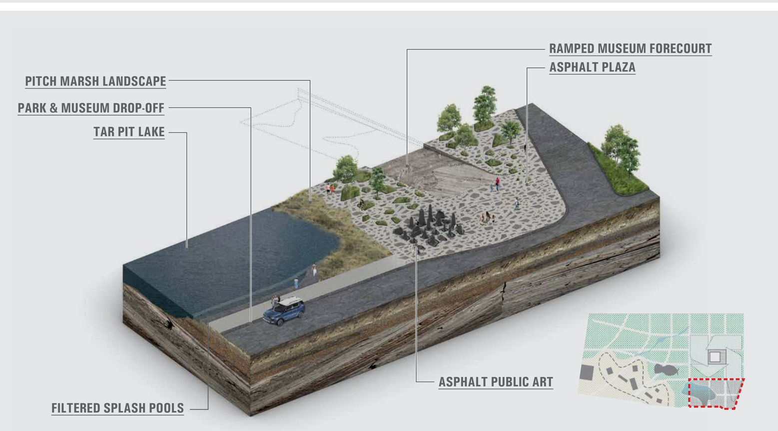
THE WOODLAND ECOTONE plays host to a dense tree canopy extending to the heart of the park. Self-sustaining grassy meadows and chaparral landscapes supplant current water-thirsty lawns, and are punctuated by former and active digs sites. Mobile "dig rigs" can ride along pathways to current and future dig sites, doubling as both hoist and protective canopy to support field work here and throughout Hancock Park.

SYCAMORE



THE RIPARIAN ECOTONE emerges along the banks of the Oil Creek, transecting the middle of the park from the Northeast to the Southwest. This wet environment most dramatically demonstrates the differences between the present-day climate of Los Angeles with a much wetter environment found during the Pleistocene, 40,000 Y.B.P, approximated 250 miles to the North today at Big Sur. Plant species identified in the asphalt such as pits black walnut and red osier dogwood, among others, will thrive here.

CAL. BAY LAUREL



THE URBAN ECOTONE engages the hustle and bustle of Wilshire Boulevard with naturally shaded plazas, a filtered splash pool between the new park drop-off and the Tar Pit Lake, and commissioned public art engaging the research conducted at La Brea —all to soften the edge between city and park. Water-permeable paving throughout will be interspersed with woodland oases, while the Lake edge will play host to niche wetland flora and fauna that can grow and survive in asphalt.

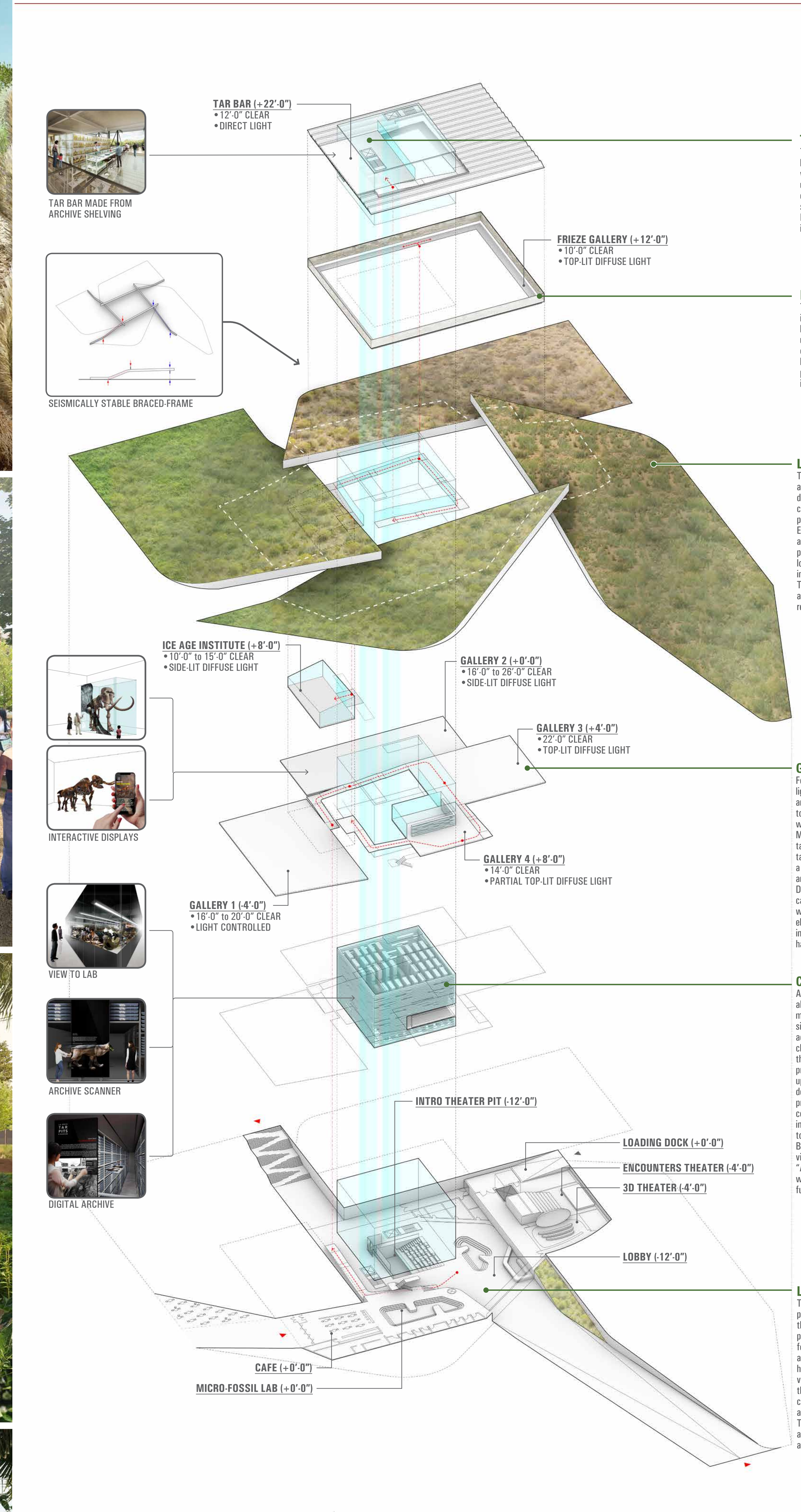
PITCH LAKE ECOSYSTEM











TAR BAR & TERRACE
The top of the archive block pops up above the frieze and landscaped plates to house simulation and research labs as well as the Tar Bar and Terrace. Visitors to the museum can unwind after a day visit and Angelenos can intersect at this destination bar to enjoy panoramic views of the park, the surrounding area and distant views of Downtown and the Pacific on a clear day. This indoor / outdoor rooftop setting is ideal for hosting events at the Museum.

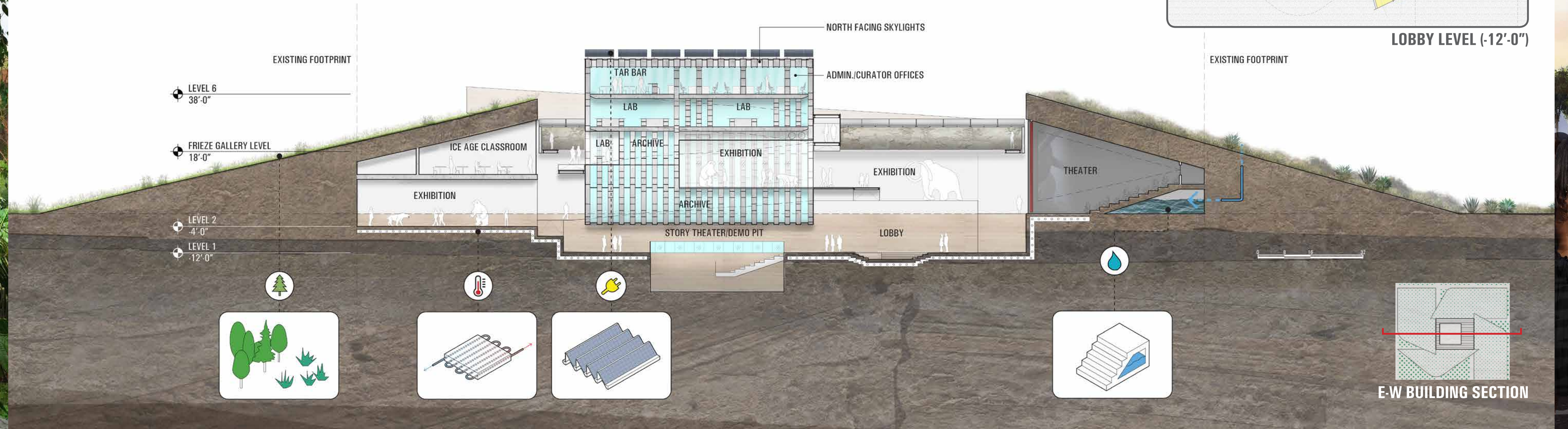
FRIEZE GALLERY
The spiraling circulation ramp extends to the Frieze Gallery. The iconic Page Museum frieze is reversed to face inwards and is bordered by a surrounding walkway that gives visitors a close up view of the 20 dramatic scenes depicting 40,000 years of history at the Tar Pits. Using high-definition 3-dimensional laser-scans, the frieze will be recast in translucent resin, permitting natural and artificial lighting effects to enhance this important pedagogical tool for the museum.

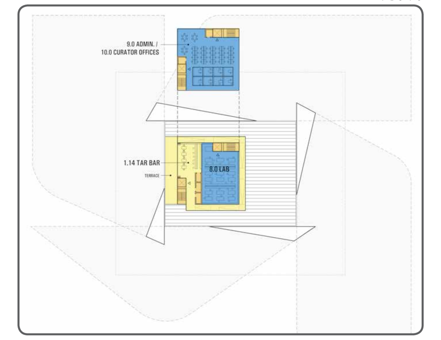
LANDSCAPED PLATES
The distinctive grass covered berms surrounding the Page are transformed into overlapping landscaped plates, providing daylight and multiple points of access to the museum, while creating an inherently stable seismic system. The South plate parts to create the main entrance, from the Asphalt Plaza. The East plate opens to the park and shades an indoor / outdoor cafe area to be shared by both museum and park visitors. The North plate provides vistas onto the city, while the East plate holds the loading dock and the staff entrance off of Curson, doubling as an indoor / outdoor gallery and event space when not in service use. The slope of the plates is fully traversable on foot and features a hardy and lush grass landscape ideal for passive and active recreation while requiring less water than a traditional lawn.

GALLERY CIRCUIT
Four versatile galleries, each with distinct ceiling heights, lighting conditions and other functional attributes are arranged around the archive block in an ascending spiral. The first gallery, to the west of the lobby has a variable height (16'-24' high) with no natural light; it sits at the elevation of the current Page Museum, four feet below grade. It is followed by a side-lit, 18' tall gallery to the north positioned at grade. Next is a top-lit, 20' tall gallery surrounding the archive at 4' above grade. Finally, a glass-floored 14' tall gallery positioned at +8' slips into the archival mass using the archive storage shelves as its walls. Digital media enhancements such as AR and interactive displays can bring these animals back to life -- illustrating the context in which a specimen was discovered; reconstructing the corporeal elements of the creature, such as its musculature, skin and hair; imagining the environments in which the animal or plant may have lived; and probing into the microscopic detail of its surface.

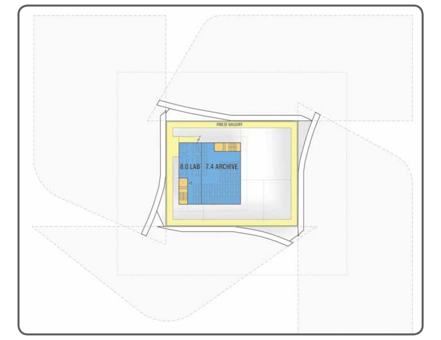
COLLECTION ARCHIVE & LABS
A glass-enclosed storage, laboratory and office block hovers above the lobby. Flexible high-density shelving houses the museum's extensive collection of specimens, ranging in size from massive mammoth skulls to tiny seed pods. Fully-accessible public ramps hugging the archive bring visitors up close to the collection while labs within also provide access to the gallery sequence, classrooms and theaters. The scientific process of paleontology will unfold as visitors circulate upwards, offering views into active wet and dry laboratories devoted to the painstaking cleaning, processing, sorting and preservation of newly extracted specimens to be added to the collection storage. North-facing skylights will bathe the space in diffuse natural light and limit infiltration of UV rays harmful to the specimens on display, maintaining their distinctive "La Brea Brown" hue. Interactive digital interfaces will allow visitors to probe deeper into the research behind each artifact. "AR scanners," high-definition cameras revealing the intricate work being conducted by researchers, and virtual access to the full collection would help expand the limits of visitor access.

LOBBY & DEMONSTRATION PIT
The museum can be approached from multiple sides, with its primary entrance from a fully-accessible ramped descent from the Asphalt Plaza. Here, a triple-height reception space will provide ample space for admissions and visitor amenities. A fossil extraction demonstration pit at its center will double as an introductory theater to tell the La Brea Tar Pits story and highlight the research being done on site today. From there, visitors will enter the spiral circulation system that winds through a sequence of galleries, offering glimpses into the collections archive and research labs along the way. The lobby also provides direct access to the Performance and 3D Film Theaters, Café, and Micro-Fossil Lab Experience, all positioned at Park level for easy access to the outdoor dig sites and asphalt seeps.





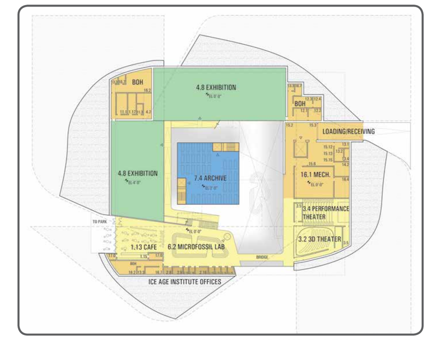
TAR BAR LEVEL (+28'-0") & ADMIN. LEVEL (+38'-0")



FRIEZE GALLERY LEVEL (+18'-0")



GALLERY 3 LEVEL (+4'-0") & GALLERY 4 LEVEL (+8'-0")



PAGE LEVEL (-4'-0") & GROUND LEVEL (+0'-0")

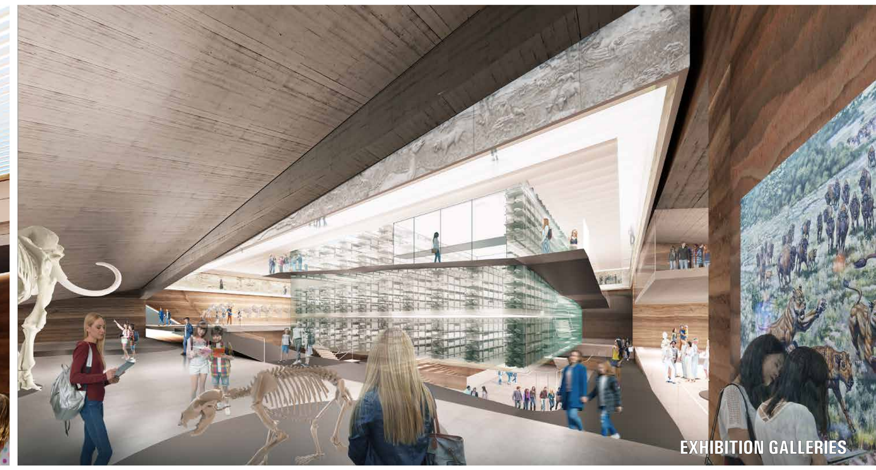


LOBBY LEVEL (-12'-0")



TAR PIT LAKE & PAGE MUSEUM FROM JAPANESE PAVILION











ASPHALT PLAZA & PAGE MUSEUM FROM WILSHIRE & CURSON